

Graduation Matters Montana – Request for Proposals

The Montana Office of Public Instruction received a grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, to fund up to 15 local Graduation Matters Montana (GMM) initiatives each year, for three years, starting in 2012. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to Montana public schools for existing GMM initiatives and for new GMM initiatives through a competitive application process. Before you complete this application, please watch a brief webinar on the application. For further assistance, please contact Thea Whalen, OPI at 444-5643 or twhalen@mt.gov.

I am applying for funds as an existing GMM community or a new GMM initiative

I have watched the GMM webinar: Check box

1. **Program Need** Please fill out the following table; If you have any data-related questions, you can contact Andy Boehm at 444-0375 or aboehm@mt.gov.

	2010		2009		2008	
School	Drop Out Count	Drop Out Rate	Drop Out Count	Drop Out Rate	Drop Out Count	Drop Out Rate

2. **Data Observations** What key insights do you derive from looking at your data? Please address:
(750 characters)

- (1) What is the scope of the dropout problem?
- (2) Which students are at high risk of dropping out?
- (3) Why do individual students drop out?
- (4) When are students at risk of dropping out?
- (5) How is what you know about your data and what you still seek to better understand influencing the focus of your GMM plan?

3. **Additional Information - Optional**

Is there anything else you'd like to add regarding program need? (500 characters)

4. **GMM Goal** What are your GMM goals for this grant? Two goals must be addressed: (500 characters)

- (1) Reduce the number of students who drop out by ____ ;
- (2) Decrease the number of students who are credit deficient by ____ .

Please add additional goals as you see fit. Possible goals may include: build ____ new community/business/school partnerships; have ____ students take the I Pledge to Graduate; institute/strengthen the following interventions: (advisories, attendance monitoring/follow-up, early warning systems)

5. The following activities are eligible for GMM funding. Please check which boxes you plan to use GMM funds to support, and provide budget allocations.

- ☐ Stipends for current staff and/or existing school team to convene GMM partners \$ _____
- ☐ Stipends for current staff and/or existing school team to coordinate GMM activities \$ _____
- ☐ Stipend/contract for external facilitator to convene school/community businesses \$ _____
- ☐ Program expenditures to promote GMM initiative \$ _____
- ☐ Program expenditures to promote I Pledge to Graduate event(s) \$ _____
- ☐ Program expenditures for ongoing professional development \$ _____
- ☐ Other (text box) \$ _____

TOTAL Request: \$ _____

6. Please describe how you plan to use the funds for the activities identified above (1000 characters)

7. Timeline Please provide a timeline of activities, using this format. If you already have a timeline developed, please email it to graduationmatters.mt.gov:

Activity	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter

8. Capacity Please provide a list of individuals and organizational affiliations who have formally agreed to support this application. The first four are mandatory for application. If you have identified business and community organization partners, please add them here

School Board Chairperson

District Superintendent

Middle School/High School Principal(s)

Teacher Representative(s)

<hr/>	Student Representative(s)
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<hr/>	<hr/>

- 9. GMM Plan** If you already have a GMM plan, please email it to graduationmatters.mt.gov. If you do not yet have a plan, you will be expected to complete one in the first three months of the grant period – a GMM plan template is available (NOTE: It is not necessary to have a plan in place prior to receiving funds.)
- 10. GMM Team** If you already have a GMM Team established, please email its membership with organizational affiliation to graduationmatters@mt.gov.